

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, prior to line 2, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 USC §119 to French Patent Application No. 0209153 filed on July 18, 2002.

TECHNICAL FIELD--

On page 2, please amend the paragraphs comprising lines 21-26 as follows:

--Figure 1 shows a portion of a composite insulator provided with a metal end fitting whose outside portion is in the form of a knob-, where the remaining portion of the composite insulator is essentially the same as that shown; and

Figure 2 shows a portion of a composite insulator provided with a metal end fitting whose outside portion is terminated by a clevis, where the remaining portion of the composite insulator is essentially the same as that shown.--

On page 2 at line 27, please amend the heading as follows:

--MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 28 as follows:

--In Figure 1, there can be seen a metal interface 3, in this case a ductile metal tube, which is sleeve coupled by a swaging technique to one end of the rod 2 of an insulator. The rod is made of a synthetic material, for example out of glass fibers and resin. Although not shown in Figure 1, the second end of the rod 2 extends beyond coating 6. A second metal interface 3 is coupled to this second end of rod 2.--

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 33 as follows:

--A coating 6 is placed around the rod 2 and around ~~the~~ interface both interfaces 3, while nevertheless leaving an end portion of ~~the~~ each interface 3 uncovered by the coating. This not covered or bared end portion of ~~the~~ each interface can be used after the insulator body has been made for fixing an endpiece to ~~the~~ each interface. In Figure 1, the forged steel metal endpiece 1 is terminated by a knob 4, which endpiece is inserted into the tube 3 and is then fixed thereto by a swaging technique. In order to obtain leaktightness for the rod portion, the tube 3 includes an inside transverse separating wall 5 which may be a metal web obtained by molding or by machining, or which may be a silicone seal, e.g. fitted inside the tube. The inside diameters of the two end portions of the tube 3 may be identical or different. When the diameters are identical, it is possible to use a standard commercially-available tube, thereby further reducing the cost of manufacturing the insulator.--

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 23 as follows:

--Figure 2 shows a rod 12 having a tube 13 fixed to the end thereof, the tube serving as an interface for an end fitting 11 that is terminated by a clevis 14. An insulating coating 16 surrounds the rod 12 and a portion of the tube 13. The tube has an internal wall 15 fitted thereto, in this case a silicone plug. Although not shown in Figure 2, a second tube 13 is fixed to the other end of rod 12. Another end fitting 11 that is terminated by a second clevis 14 is secured to this second tube 13.--